COD Processing Update
April 16th, 2021

2020–21 Verification Status Code "W" Warning Message (7/29/20)

On April 7, 2021, Federal Student Aid will begin processing a text message (PGTX20OP) as well as a Reconciliation Report (PGRC20OP) via the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) to schools that have one or more Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) student records still reported with a verification status code of "W." The message is a warning that disbursements to all students with a verification status code of "W" will be considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount ($0.00), even though the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. The reduction of the affected disbursements is scheduled to occur on April 21, 2021.

Note Regarding Verification Deadline:

Some of the student records included in the Reconciliation Report may be for students who are still within the allowable timeframe for submitting verification documentation/completing the verification process by the deadlines specified in the "2019–2020 Award Year Deadline Dates" published in the Federal Register on July 14, 2020.

Following the April 21, 2021 reduction, if a school needs additional time to complete verification for an individual student in accordance with the allowable timeframe in the Federal Register notice, the school may resubmit a disbursement record with a value greater than zero ($0.00) until October 1, 2021. After October 1, 2021, the COD System will no longer accept "W" as a valid verification status code for 2020–21 Pell Grant awards.

For complete information, refer to a [April 8, 2021 Electronic Announcement](#) posted on the Knowledge Center website. If you have questions about the warning message or about reporting verification status codes to the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Next Gen FSA – FSA Partner Connect and Knowledge Center Now Available (3/29/21)

Federal Student Aid is pleased to [announce](#) the launch of the [FSA Partner Connect website](#) and the new Knowledge Center. Federal Student Aid previously posted information about the new site in several announcements on [Feb. 25, 2021](#), [March 9, 2021](#), and [March 18, 2021](#).

As a reminder, the Information Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) website has been retired. Users visiting the IFAP website home page will be redirected to [Knowledge Center Home](#). For specific details about other URLs, email subscriptions, and other transition information, refer to the March 9th announcement.

Extension of Dec. 31, 2020 timeframe for *CARES Act* Relief to add the Coronavirus Indicator to qualifying disbursements for 2020–21 Award Year

The Department of Education (the Department) is extending the timeframe for schools to add the Coronavirus Indicator for disbursements of *Title IV* funds for the 2020–21 Award Year until **Sept. 30, 2021**. In previous guidance, including a [Sept. 23, 2020 Electronic Announcement](#), the Department stated that schools should add the Coronavirus Indicator to disbursements qualifying for *CARES Act* relief no later than Dec. 31, 2020. Because of the ongoing impacts postsecondary institutions and their students face resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, it is necessary to extend the timeframe for schools to add the Coronavirus Indicator for disbursements for the 2020–21 Award Year until **Sept. 30, 2021**. There has been no change to the deadline to add the Coronavirus Indicator for disbursements from the 2019–20 Award Year; schools should add the Coronavirus Indicator to those qualifying disbursements no later than Dec. 31, 2020. Schools should set the Coronavirus Indicator only after confirming that no

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further changes to a disbursement will be necessary. No changes may be made to a disbursement after the Coronavirus Indicator is selected.

As a reminder, the deadline for reporting funds not returned under R2T4 requirements due to *CARES Act* relief, for all award years, remains the same: **Sept. 30, 2021**.

CURRENT ISSUES

CAMPUS-BASED

There are no Campus-Based-related issues at this time.

DIRECT LOANS

There are no Direct Loan-related issues at this time.

GRANTS

COD Reject Edit 172 Issue for Pell Grant Awards with AEI is "True" and Coronavirus Indicator is Checked (4/6/21)

Federal Student Aid is aware of an issue that occurs when a school submits a Pell Grant award amount greater than 150% of the Scheduled Award and 1) the Additional Eligibility Indicator (AEI) set to "true" on the award, and 2) the Coronavirus Indicator is checked on any disbursement at that school for that award year.

In these cases, the school receives COD Reject Edit 172 (Incorrect Award Amount when Additional Eligibility Indicator is "true"). This error prevents the COD system from correctly processing the increased award and disbursement amounts the student *is eligible to receive* as a result of an earlier *CARES Act* LEU Disaster Relief Adjustment.

Currently, there is no workaround to enable the higher award amount and subsequent disbursement(s) to process correctly; however, Federal Student Aid is working on a fix for the issue as soon as possible. Federal Student Aid will update the community as the system solution progresses; updates will be provided through the COD Processing Update posted on the COD website.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for the inconvenience this issue causes.

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WEEKLY REMINDERS

Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (1/4/19)

We remind schools and third party servicers that contact information in the COD System must be kept current. Contact information is extremely important for us to be able to reach the right people at the school, particularly about program-specific issues. The e-mail addresses for the President, Financial Aid Administrator, Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer, and Direct Loan Financial Aid Officer are used to deliver time-sensitive materials and critical COD processing information to the school.

Having current contact information for the Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer and Direct Loan Financial Aid Officer is most critical for a school that is an additional location to a main campus. The information allows us to contact those officers directly at the additional location rather than needing to contact the main campus.

For more information on updating School Contact Information, please refer to [the December 20, 2012 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.](#)

How to Access Information from the COD Web Site File Share (1/4/19)

As a reminder, Federal Student Aid shares student-specific information through uploaded files via the COD Web Site. We upload these files to the File Share section of the "File Share & Messages" page of the COD Web Site. Authorized school users are able to view and download the customized documents from the COD Web Site. Schools can access the "File Share & Messages" page by completing the following steps:

1) Log in to the COD Web Site.

2) Click on the "School" tab.

3) Enter the required school identifiers and click on "Search." This will open the "School Summary Information" page.

4) Click on the "File Share/Messages" link on the left-hand side of the page to open the "File Share & Messages" page.

From the File Share section of the page, an authorized COD Web Site user will see a list of uploaded files. A user will click on the "Download" icon to download the File Share document to his or her computer. ***Note:*** Authorized school users are able to view and download the customized documents from the COD Web Site for a limited period of time.

The COD Web Site will only display File Share documents associated with the school's Entity ID. If there are no files uploaded for a school, the File Share list will be blank. Schools will be notified via email (or in some cases via a phone call) when a File Share document is available.

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